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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:
REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND
RELATED QUESTIONS

Human rights questions

Statement submitted by the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The 13 million people of Jammu and Kashmir have been oppressed since 1947 because India, in clear defiance of the United Nations, continues to deny them their inalienable right of self-determination.

In order to break the spirit of the Kashmiri people and to continue its occupation of the annexed state of Jammu and Kashmir, since January 1990, the Indian regime in Kashmir has resorted to gross and consistent violations of human rights. The atrocities committed by the Indian security forces, now numbering 600,000, has been documented by several Indian and every major international human rights organization. India has chosen to pay no attention to the concerns of the world community, and continues to kill, torture, maim, imprison and rape the peace-loving Kashmiri people. Since January 1990 alone, the Indian security forces have killed over 28,000 Kashmiris, thrown over 35,000 of them in jails and interrogation-cum-torture centres and raped nearly 5,000 women. This brutal occupation has transformed the once peaceful valley of Kashmir from "paradise on earth" to a living hell.

The Amnesty International report published on 6 July 1994 supports our view that since the last session of the Commission on Human Rights, in March 1994, India has been guilty of grave crimes against humanity. The report states that the Indian forces in Kashmir "were responsible for scores of 'disappearances'". While "(h)undreds of people were reported to have been extrajudiciously executed by (Indian) security forces". India, which denies entry to Amnesty International and international electronic media into Kashmir, has paid no heed to Amnesty International's call for the release of "prisoners of conscience" such as Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Syed Shabir Shah and Abdul Gani Lone, who are also members of the Executive Council of the Kashmir-based All Parties Hurriyat Conference and, therefore, true representatives of the Kashmiri people.

It is imperative that urgent and concrete steps are undertaken to end the massive violations of human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to uphold and respect the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The suppression and occupation of Kashmir is in direct violation of valid, binding, but as yet unimplemented, United Nations Security Council resolutions and it must come to an end. The United Nations should dispatch a fact-finding mission to Kashmir to investigate the situation and report to the General Assembly.

The legitimate struggle of the people of Kashmir must be supported so that 13 million people can regain their fundamental rights and freedoms.